SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR CONTROLLING THE USAGE OF DIGITAL OBJECTS

Abstract of the Disclosure

A system and method for managing the use and access of digital data objects. According to the invention, control rights associated with a digital data object activate an external control object and an intercept application to intercept and monitor communications between a hosting application and a document server application associated with the creation of the digital data object. These intercepting and monitoring functions are performed without affecting or changing the hosting application or the document server application. The external control object activates an intercept application which mimics the functions of the document server application and performs user actions on the digital data object as authorized by the external control object according to the control rights associated with the digital object. By intercepting and monitoring user actions on a digital data object, the invention can control access and use of the digital data object. Additionally, the invention can record histories of user actions on the digital data object. Moreover, the invention can augment the functions of the document server application associated with digital data object. Further, for security reasons, the invention can restrict use of the digital object to only authorized users. In addition, this invention may accomplish these functions by implementation in connection with Microsoft's Active Document Specification, which is built upon the Microsoft Component Object Model (COM) architecture and which is part of Microsoft's Object Linking and Embedding (OLE) family of technologies.

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